

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Regional Network Management Committee

January 9, 2026

Agenda Item 3a

MTC Resolution No. 4739. MTC Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways

Subject:

Request to refer the proposed Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways to the Commission for approval.

Background:

As part of Action 12 of the Transit Transformation Action Plan, MTC is developing the Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways (Policy) to enhance the transit rider experience by supporting the implementation of transit priority infrastructure and policies that improve transit travel times and reliability, and promote active interagency engagement necessary to be successful. The overall intent of the Policy is to help transit better serve people's needs and move more people in the Bay Area.

If approved, the Policy (Attachment A) will establish transit review requirements for roadway projects on public right-of-way requesting MTC discretionary funding over \$250,000 or MTC endorsement. Transit review requirements will vary by the level of transit service in the project area. The Policy includes transit review requirements intended to:

- Promote active interagency engagement to minimize unintended impacts to transit; and
- Enhance the transit rider experience by supporting transit priority infrastructure and policies that improve transit travel times and reliability.

The draft Policy was presented to the RNM Council, RNM Committee, and RNM Customer Advisory Group at their September and October 2025 meetings. Staff made minor edits and clarifications to the Policy based on the feedback received at those meetings. The proposed final Policy was presented to the RNM Council at their December 15, 2025 meeting, where they unanimously endorsed the Policy and referred the Policy to the RNM Committee for referral to the full Commission for approval.

Feedback Received:

Staff engaged with various stakeholder agencies throughout the development of the Policy through a variety of staff working groups and county transportation agency (CTA) committees. The Policy was shaped by over 500 individual comments from stakeholders at more than 50 cities, counties, transit agencies, CTAs, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), MTC, and advocacy organizations.

At the presentations of the draft Policy to the September and October 2025 RNM Council, RNM Committee, and RNM Customer Advisory Group meetings, staff received feedback on the following key themes: implementation and coordination, technical assistance, funding incentives for local policies, dispute resolution, and stakeholder outreach. Details on how the proposed final Policy addresses these comments are identified in the staff presentation (Attachment B).

The RNM Council provided comments on the proposed final Policy at their December 2025 meeting. The RNM Council appreciated how the Policy and the implementation plan reflected nuanced feedback from various stakeholders. There was interest in monitoring the Policy's roll-out and impact on interagency coordination once the Policy is implemented, and support for staff's plans to provide updates, including regarding opportunities for transit incentives and the consideration of Policy modifications that would strengthen the Policy. There was also interest in reporting on metrics that measure the Policy's progress, including impacts on transit performance. The RNM Council noted the importance of local jurisdiction engagement with transit agencies, as well as the role of County Transportation Agencies as a convener.

Next Steps:

If adopted by the MTC Commission, the Policy will be implemented through the existing MTC Complete Streets (CS) Checklist process, which is expected to roll out an improved online portal in early 2026. As part of the outreach efforts to introduce the new CS Checklist portal, staff will share the new Transit Priority Policy requirements. Staff also plan to provide regular reports on Transit Priority Policy implementation activities in coordination with CS Policy reports.

Additionally, the Transit Priority Roadway Assessment (Assessment) is currently underway; details of the Assessment are included in the [October 2025 RNM Committee packet](https://mtc.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7693127&GUID=4680FDF2-6BAF-4951-) (<https://mtc.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7693127&GUID=4680FDF2-6BAF-4951->

A841-8DF65CF7DC70). The Assessment will include the development of the regional Transit Priority Network (TPN), which will identify transit corridors where additional Policy criteria will apply. The Assessment will also identify transit delay “hotspot” locations with speed/reliability issues, which will inform funding priorities for future MTC transit priority grant programs. Staff anticipate bringing the draft TPN to the RNM bodies in mid-2026, and will provide an update on the Policy implementation, related technical assistance efforts, potential funding incentives, and transit priority grant funding programs at that time.

Issues:

Throughout the Policy development process, staff received divergent comments from a broad range of stakeholders. As proposed, the Policy aims to strike a balance between the considerations and needs of transit agencies and local jurisdictions. Two areas where staff have focused efforts to reconcile competing priorities are:

- Some transit agencies have requested the inclusion of funding incentives within the policy to encourage local jurisdictions to adopt a transit supportive resolution or policy. MTC will work to identify how funding incentives could be applied, but would implement any potential funding incentives through the funding programs and not through the Policy.
- Local jurisdictions have expressed concerns that the policy will slow down project development and grant applications by requiring transit review. In response, Staff will monitor implementation of the Policy, particularly during the anticipated OBAG 4 Call for Projects in Spring 2026, to understand how it is working and note any issues.

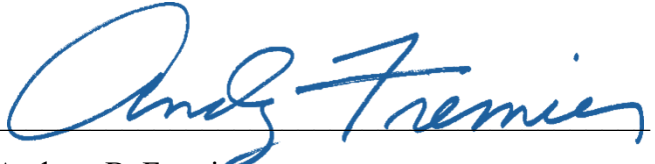
Staff plan to provide an update on these issues and any proposed Policy refinements in parallel with the Transit Priority Network updates in mid 2026 and late 2026/early 2027.

Recommendations:

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4739 to the Commission for approval.

Attachments:

- MTC Resolution 4739. Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways
 - Attachment A
- Attachment A: Overview of Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways
- Attachment B: Presentation



Andrew B. Fremier